



December 27, 2013

Honorable Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Hagel,

On behalf of California Governor Brown, we serve on the Governor's Military Council to support military, national security and aerospace operations in California. Our bipartisan group, comprised of retired flag officers and civic leaders, works to underscore the unique national security value of California installations. We also work with state leaders to strengthen California's support for military operations in our state.

We write to convey our concern regarding a reported proposal to retire the KC-10 aircraft from the United States Air Force. As you are aware, approximately half of the KC-10 fleet is located at Travis Air Force Base in Solano County, California. Travis is often referred to as the Air Force's "Gateway to the Pacific" thanks to its strategic location and dual airlift and air refueling missions. It is currently home to KC-10, C-5 and C-17 aircraft. The State of California and the Travis community are highly supportive of Travis Air Force Base and have developed strong land-use protections to prevent encroachment, flight operations and radar interference with base operations.

As our national military strategy pivots to the Pacific region, eliminating 27 current KC-10 aircraft from Travis Air Force Base without a formal plan to backfill this capacity could significantly hinder the success of this strategic shift to the Pacific. We are therefore concerned with any plan to divest the KC-10 at Travis Air Force Base that does not include a formal plan to backfill this capability at the base. Considering the importance of Travis's robust airlift and air refueling capabilities, we would request that any proposal to retire the KC-10 aircraft be accompanied by a commitment to maintaining comparable capacity at Travis Air Force Base.

We fully acknowledge your efforts, in this era of limited funding, to structure an Air Force that is second to none. Likewise, we are optimistic that the recent budget agreement will enable the Department of Defense to execute strategic shifts in a sound manner. As you consider the retirement of the KC-10s and other important decisions, please let us know how our Council can be supportive to your efforts.

Sincerely,

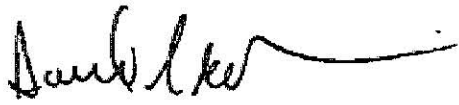
Members of the California Governor's Military Council



Honorable Ellen O. Tauscher
Chair, Governor's Military Council



Alice Astafan
Major General, United States Air Force (Ret.)



David S. Baldwin
Major General, United States Army
Adjutant General, California Military Department



Thomas R. Berard
Senior Executive, Department of the Air Force (Ret.)



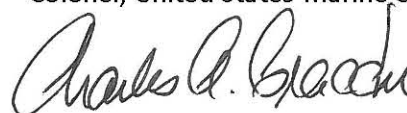
Jody Breckenridge
Vice Admiral, United States Coast Guard (Ret.)



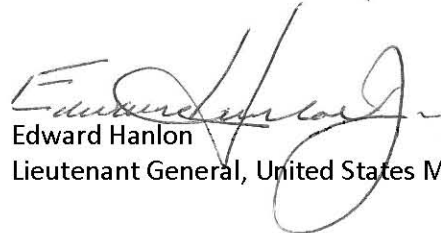
Rocky Chavez
Assemblymember, 76th Assembly District
Colonel, United States Marine Corps (Ret.)



Joseph A. Czyzyk



Charles A. Giacchi
Senior Executive, Department of the Navy (Ret.)



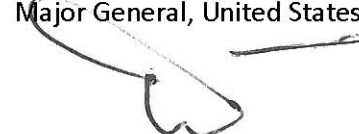
Edward Hanlon
Lieutenant General, United States Marine Corps (Ret.)



Anthony Jackson
Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Major General, United States Marine Corps (Ret.)



James Johnson
Rear Admiral, United States Navy (Ret.)



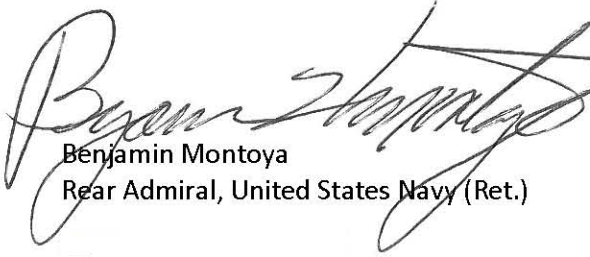
Dennis Kenneally
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